

GREG WALDEN, OREGON  
CHAIRMAN

FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY  
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115  
Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641  
May 5, 2017

Ms. V. Anne Heard  
Acting Regional Administrator  
EPA Region 4 Office  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Sam Nunn Atlanta Federal Center  
61 Forsyth Street, SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8960

Dear Ms. Heard:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the U.S. House of Representatives, I write to request a briefing from your office regarding the multiple and conflicting reports about the fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Every day, EPA's program and regional offices perform vital functions that, among other things, help ensure American families have clean air and safe drinking water. However, President Trump's March 16, 2017 budget blueprint proposed extreme budget and personnel cuts to EPA, including a 31 percent funding reduction and the elimination of 3,200 employees.<sup>1</sup> An internal memorandum from EPA Acting Chief Financial Officer David A. Bloom, which was subsequently leaked to the press, further underscores that dangerous and significant budget cuts may be under consideration.<sup>2</sup>

The Committee has serious concerns that such severe budget and personnel cuts would undermine the Agency's critically important work at the expense of human health and the environment. In light of unofficial sources identifying the elimination of more than 50 critical programs throughout the Agency, the Committee on April 20, 2017 sent a letter to Administrator Pruitt requesting a briefing on the Agency's budget request. To date, the Committee has yet to receive a briefing in response to this request.

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<sup>1</sup> Office of Management and Budget, *America First: A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again* (Mar. 2017).

<sup>2</sup> Memorandum from David A. Bloom, EPA Acting Chief Financial Officer, to EPA Acting General Counsel, et al. FY 2018 President's Budget: Major Policy and Final Resource Decisions (Mar. 21, 2017).

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To that end, the Committee requests a briefing from the EPA Region 4 Office on how EPA's FY 2018 budget request will affect the ability of the office to fulfill EPA's obligation to protect human health and the environment.

This briefing should include any information concerning the EPA Region 4 Office programs and initiatives within the jurisdiction of the Committee, including, but not limited to, proposed budget and spending breakdowns, future state and regional funding, current and future employment numbers, elimination and consolidation plans, and timelines for implementing these broad changes.

As the Committee with primary jurisdiction over EPA, it is critical that Energy and Commerce Members and staff receive accurate and timely information on the current priorities and plans of the Agency. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to a response as soon as possible, but, in any event, by no later than May 18, 2017.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

Cc: The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce